Demand for Ayurvedic medicines

†2994. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to work on a large scale in the country keeping in view the rising demand of Ayurvedic medicines in the world over;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also contemplating protection, conservation and making patents of the plants found in various parts which are suitable for medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Government have taken steps to help augment availability of authentic raw materials to meet the requirements of industry for domestic consumption and export. A Medicinal Plants Board has been set up to coordinate all activities relating to cultivation, conservation, marketing, etc. including drawing up of schemes and programmes to develop this sector. Steps have also been taken to standardize products by laying pharmacopocial standards, augmenting laboratory facilities, notifying Good Manufacturing Practices, relaxation in labelling provisions for export. Assistance has also been provided to State Government Pharmacies and Laboratories.

Development of male contraceptive

2995. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IIT, Delhi has developed a chemical based male contraceptive as an alternative to vasectomy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether clinical trial of the new device has been carried out successfully; and

(d) if so, by when the new contraceptive is likely to be released for universal application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A bioactive compound and a specific co-polymer when injected in the vas deferens induces long term contraceptive effect.

(c) Phase-I clinical trial was conducted on 38 male volunteers whose wives had already undergone sterilization. Phase-II clinical trial was conducted in subjects whose wives were having normal reproductive profile. The results reconfirmed the safety of the drug, showed azoospermia and gave complete pregnancy protection. Limited Phase-III clinical trial aiming to enroll 150 subjects is ongoing at three centers in Delhi. To increase the enrolment of the subjects, the trial has been recently extended to one more centre at Jaipur.

(d) The matter of release of the drug will be decided on successful completion of Phase-III clinical trial and analysis of relevant data.

Increase in Diabetes

2996. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Diabetes' number on the rise", which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 13th March, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report with regard to alarmingly rising incidence of diabetes mellitus in almost all the major cities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. A pilot